

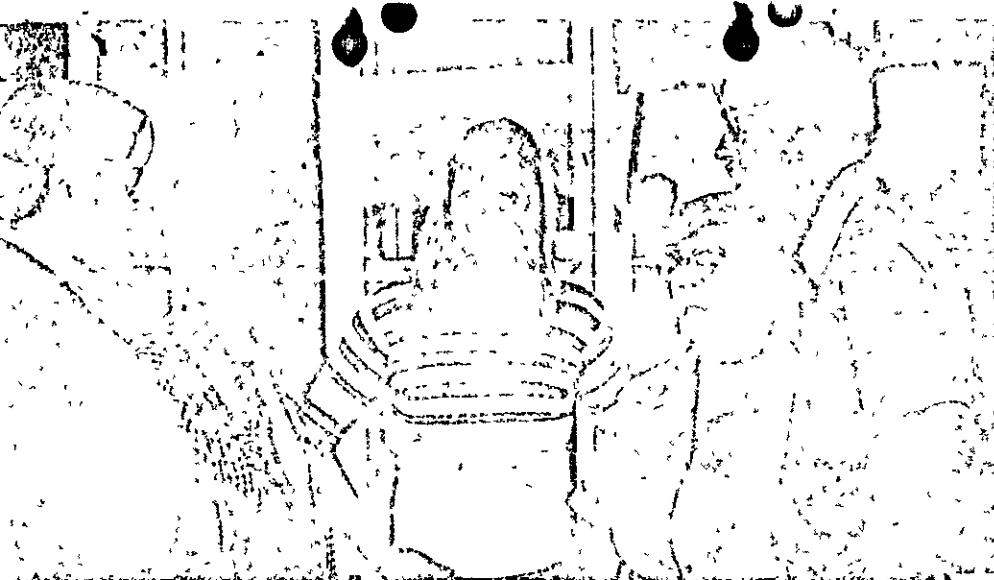


FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: Democratic Socialists of America/Remand



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY FRANK FOLWELL

Davenport members of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee are (from left) Ned Petersen, JoAnne

Moach, Gordon Muller, Doris Kolvoord and Bruce Buerkens. About a dozen Iowans are members.

ned in the 1970s. Now it's something different. Some people are convinced that if you question the fundamental structure of the system, you have to be a radical, "a bumb in one hand and a d flag in the other. We want to open up the decision-making process to some considerations besides simply business profit."

Kolvoord — "It has to be an evolutionary process."

Mrs. Kolvoord and the others believe that process got a push from public reaction to the Vietnam War.

"It opened people's minds to question the government and ask just how are these decisions made," said Muller.

The liberal approach, said Petersen, was to "latch onto government as the counter-force to the corporation."

Now, he said, the Nixon administration has dismantled the several programs increasing problems of many poor per-

* See Change Ahead

Probably more important, the five agreed are the new difficulties of energy shortages, inflation and threats to the environment. The higher prices underdeveloped countries are

charging for raw materials will keep those problems around for many years, they said.

The result in the coming decades will be radical — although not necessarily violent — change, they said.

The question they added, is what kind of change. A change in which society is dominated by technocracy or government-imposed capitalism or communism or something else?

"If you want to keep your freedom and liberty, you cannot concentrate your power in a few one portion of society," said Petersen.

Thus, Davenport's Democratic Socialists are not big supporters of nationalization of industry and business, because they said that would give too much power to government.

Instead they want "public ownership and decentralized control" of large businesses with consumers and workers having an equal voice with management in determining company products and prices.

Such a system would virtually eliminate profits thus making nearly impossible the accumulation of great wealth — the

many workers and businessmen.

American Dream

Petersen concedes that "making a million dollars happens often enough to satisfy the myth."

But, the result is a lower standard of living for the average person, said Mrs. Kolvoord, adding

"We've got to change the American dream."

But, they were asked, wouldn't that still the motivation that has helped produce America's riches?

No they replied, because people could still be motivated to have \$50,000-a-year executive jobs, for example.

Also they claim, values have changed.

People are as concerned about working conditions and job satisfaction as they are about wages.

People are demanding more inexpensive child-care centers, medical care and educational opportunities that will not wreck a lifer's savings, reliable public transportation to counteract the rising cost of gasoline and growing expense of owning a car, they said.

And, they said, people also certain degree of frivolity."

are seeking openness in a government that has had its integrity shaken in part by the heavy influence of big business

"Scary"

Mrs. Kolvoord, who also is second vice-chairman of the Scott County Democratic Central Committee, campaigned for her delegate spot to the Democrats' December convention on a theme of keeping the party open.

Party reforms in 1972 resulted in greater participation by women and minorities in major decisions. Reforms also brought complaints of a "quota system" — and a move to go back to some of the old ways when the December convention writes a charter.

"I think it's scary," said Mrs. Kolvoord. "I don't want to lose that openness."

The socialists are not always super-serious. Actually, they laugh a lot.

Although Petersen, in particular, spurns materialism, Mrs. Kolvoord doesn't like the idea of the spartan existence socialists often lead in novels.

"I'm a believer in certain luxuries," she said, "because I don't think it's good to be strictly utilitarian. Life needs a

Socialist Iowans See Change

By Dennis Brewer
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DAVENPORT, IA. — Doris Kolvoord was 30 when her husband, a Franklin liberated property in Germany and they moved there from New Jersey in 1934.

Doris joined the Hitler Youth and the Nazi Party, officials being shocked when he learned of the war atrocities.

"We've learned to question a lot more since we turned to God," she said somberly.

Mrs. Kolvoord is now the wife of a retired U.S. Army sergeant, mother of two and grandmother of one, and she's questioning the American system of government.

She's one of perhaps a dozen with whom the Des Moines news let

Iowans who belong to the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee — called Des Soc — by New York writer Michael Harrington, who put the group together last fall.

Socialism, which advocates re-tiling of ownership and control of production, capital, land, etc. in the community as a whole, is not unique in Iowa. But in the past, persons with such leftist leanings usually gave best to themselves because of the backlash of McCarthyism in the 1950s.

Now, that has changed.

Harrington, Mrs. Kolvoord said, Democratic Socialists across the country — a thousand plus, they claim — openly are pushing their cause.

She's one of perhaps a dozen with whom the Des Moines news let

tters story workshops and political participation.

Mrs. Kolvoord recently announced a delegate to the Democratic Party's National Charter Convention in Kansas City next December.

Did fellow Democrats know they were supporting a socialist?

"People were aware of it," she said. "It wasn't kept secret."

Peaceful Change

State Democratic Chairman Tom Whitney believes Mrs. Kolvoord is a typical hard-working Democrat who ran for the Iowa House in 1972 and second as a socialist.

But he cautions there are Democrats who disagree.

Democrats with left views in the split in the 1960s.

There is doubt that Kolvoord and other Iowans — there are five Des Soc members in the Des Moines area — are changing the system.

But they stress doing it peacefully, without causing political and government structures, and they are often limited in numbers and concerned about the same thing.

The difference and difference Muller during a recent hour interview with Des Soc's

Soc's

Please turn to page 24.

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? A BELIEVER OF CERTAIN LUXURIES'

Des Moines Tribune
 Sat., Aug. 3, 1974

Socialist: Life Needs Some Frivolity

Socialists

Continued from Page One

ports. DeeSoc members one recent morning, is simply this:

"To be truly socialist, you've got to have democracy."

Muller, 27, a bachelor is a major high mathematics teacher in the Pleasant Valley school system and has represented teachers in negotiations with the school board.

Diverse Backgrounds

Two others also are teachers, both in the Davenport system.

Bruce Buerkens, 41, married an elementary school principal last year, who has not yet received an assignment for the coming year (it "looks like" that may be tied to his socialist work, says Buerkens, but "no one has openly said that.")

JoAnne Munch, 34, married a third grade teacher who prefers Ms. to Mrs.

Then there's Lyed Petersen, 28, single, a teacher by training who never has taught. He lives with his parents picking up spending money as one of the commissioners who selects Scott County District Court jurors.

Petersen says the only profession that has stirred his interest so far is being a "political activist."

And there's Diane Kolvoord, the war bride who up-sketched between Army bases before her husband, Edwin, settled in Davenport with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers five years ago.

Active Democrats

The five socialists all are active in Democratic politics, as precinct committeepersons. In 1972 they worked for George McGovern. At this year's Scott County Democratic Convention they set up a booth and distributed socialist literature. All but Buerkens have been state convention delegates.

They — and the other half-dozen Iowa socialists, most of them teachers or students at the state universities — pay \$15 a year (\$8 for "hardship" cases) to belong to the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee.

The Democratic Party platform reflects things they supported or worked for:

Giving labor and consumer groups more voice in business decisions, paving medical school costs of doctors who will stay in Iowa (viewed as a step toward socialized medicine), opposition to corporate farming, the government guaranteeing jobs at comparable pay for those put out of work by energy or environmental policies.

The central, long-range goal of change though is to replace America's profit system with one of "fair wages" — with top executives probably making about \$50,000.

Views

These and other views, polished by the Davenport DeeSoc members at regular discussion meetings during the past several months, were reflected in the interview. Some excerpts from the dialogue:

Petersen — "We're not a political party and don't intend to be. We do encourage members to run for political office. I think it's important to put the word out (that you are a socialist) just so you aren't labelled

Kolvoord — "We're a very peaceful group. The one thing I'm opposed to is violence."

People are being priced out of everything. They followed the dictates of what they were taught, but now have no access to the rewards. Too many people can't afford to own a house, a college education for their kids, medical care.

If I feel that way, and we are just about middle income, how must people of low income feel?"

Petersen — "You end up poor after a life of hard work."

Kolvoord — "That's why you see the gray power movement."

Muller — "You see cities taking over bus companies because they are inefficient. Business is often more efficient at making a profit than providing service."

Petersen — "The government is not working for the public good, but for the private good."

Munch — "You saw it in the wheat deal to Russia."

Petersen — "The worst criminals in our society (those connected with Watergate and other scandals) get a pat on the hand. The person who steals because he is hungry gets put in jail for several years."

Buerkens — "JoAnne and I work in schools where they feed kids twice a day."

Muller — "Schools are a social institution, but we don't label it socialism."

Kolvoord — "Social security was a terrible thing in 1933, but by 1935, after it was passed, it was all right."

Petersen — "Liberals faded

in the 1960s and conservatives

in the 1970s."

SAC, Omaha

REG-AL

9/24/74

Director, FBI

62-0-82389

**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
INFORMATION CONCERNING**

Reurlet dated 9/12/74 concerning above committee wherein you requested to be advised if this committee is a legitimate political organization or if Omaha should initiate investigation.

The Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee is a legitimate organization and no further action should be taken by your office to investigate this organization. It was founded in New York City on 10/12/73 and one of its leaders pointed out that this organization does not seek a large membership but makes itself known as a socialist organization and must work within the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. For example, some of the goals of this organization are support of tax reform measures, massive redistribution of wealth, and nationalized medicine.

[redacted] was formerly the subject of a security-type investigation; however, he has not been for a number of years. [redacted]

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